

Appendix L

Priority Areas, Goals and Strategies

Gilchrist Blue Spring State Park, Credit: Mick Russell

Introduction

Building an equitable outdoor recreation system that meets the needs of Florida's citizenry and visitors is challenging. In Chapter 5, the priority areas, goals and strategies for the 2019 SCORP are presented in detail to help tackle some of the major issues that recreation providers face every day. In this appendix, these goals and strategies are reprinted in a more user-friendly format.

Outdoor recreation providers are encouraged to print the following mini-posters and to use them as a motivational aid to help address some of Florida's most pressing recreation needs. In effect, these post-

ers are a handy reference tool for implementing the plan. Public and private outdoor recreation providers might also use them as inspiration to develop their own goals and strategies to better serve their constituents and clientele.

So, what is your organization doing to help Floridians reap the many benefits of outdoor recreation? Providers are asked to share their accomplishments related to the 2019 plan with FDEP's SCORP coordinator at outdoor.recreation@dep.state.fl.us. We'll share your stories on the SCORP web page at floridadep.gov/parks. Thank you for your assistance!



Credit: OGT

A great example of why the Sunshine State is one of the best places in the world to live, work and play is the Office of Greenways and Trails' new Florida Trail Town Program. Trail Towns like Titusville (pictured) are "vibrant destinations where people come together," and where hikers, cyclists, equestrians, paddlers and other trail users can "enjoy the services and unique heritage of the community, which benefits the town economically and socially." See Chapter 3 for more information about Florida's outdoor recreation programs.





HEALTH & WELLBEING

Priority Area One:

Goal 1-1: Increase the promotion of active and healthy lifestyles in the outdoors.

- 1 Recreation providers should work with appropriate agencies and organizations to deliver effective programming that boosts physical activity, promotes family-centric health and wellness and exposes youth to nature.
- 2 Recreation providers should partner with county health departments and local health care providers to promote active, healthy lifestyles through community-level health improvement initiatives.
- 3 The FDEP should assist Florida's Department of Health in implementing recreation-related objectives in the State Health Improvement Plan.
- 4 Recreation providers should seek partnerships with private sector companies that share the common vision of creating healthy, active and walkable communities.
- 5 Recreation providers should collaborate to develop a statewide campaign that promotes the whole-health benefits of outdoor recreation, including improved mental health and workplace productivity.

Goal 1-2: Increase the number the recreation facilities, programs and opportunities in urban areas and rural communities.

- 1 Local governments should seek funding to maintain and provide additional user-oriented facilities and programs in underserved communities.
- 2 Recreation providers and user groups should initiate collaborative efforts to reach underserved youth with programming that emphasizes a holistic, whole-health approach.
- 3 Together with the private sector, recreation providers should create initiatives for youth, minorities and seniors that develop outdoor skills and instill confidence in the out-of-doors.
- 4 The FDEP will create a new GIS application that depicts gaps in park availability at the community level, with demographic and socioeconomic information layers.

Credit: Frank Weber, Orange County Government; Crawford Entertainment; Crawford Entertainment



PUBLIC ACCESS, ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

Priority Area Two:

Goal 2-1: Promote the diversity of recreation participants through the development of inclusive and welcoming programs and facilities.

- 1 Outdoor recreation providers should develop and strengthen partnerships with organizations such as the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to educate themselves and the public, and to provide recreation activities and programs for people of all ages and abilities.
- 2 State land management agencies should partner with organizations such as the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association to establish specific programs for people with disabilities, and make these programs widely available throughout the state.
- 3 Organizations should seek ways to provide and market diversity and inclusion training for outdoor recreation professionals.
- 4 Citizens and recreation providers should work to strengthen federal, state and local initiatives that support the creation, enhancement and expansion of urban parks and open spaces.

Goal 2-2: Improve universal accessibility on all public lands.

- 1 To the extent possible, agencies and recreation providers should eliminate architectural and cultural barriers in existing facilities under their management, as well as incorporate universal design concepts when planning new facilities and amenities.
- 2 Agencies and recreation departments should identify funding sources and professional guidance to help outdoor recreation providers design universally accessible facilities and amenities.

Goal 2-3: Ensure that appropriate conservation lands and waters are open and accessible for public use and are widely promoted.

- 1 State agencies and local governments should identify lands and waters under their jurisdiction where inadequate recreational access exists or where existing access can be improved, and give priority to making the needed improvements.
- 2 Recreation providers should partner to advertise which facilities, amenities and programs are universally accessible to help consumers plan their trips.
- 3 Agencies and recreation departments should seek, coordinate and leverage funding for capital improvements to increase public access as well as to maintain existing facilities.

Credit: Crawford Entertainment; Florida Disabled Outdoors Association; Crawford Entertainment



PUBLIC ACCESS, ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

Priority Area Two:

Goal 2-4: Coordinate providers, agencies and organizations to better connect and promote lands and opportunities.

- 1** Recreation agencies and providers should periodically update information about their facilities and lands in FDEP's Florida Outdoor Recreation Inventory (FORI).
- 2** The FDEP should continue to hold public events designed to encourage the exchange of information between recreation providers and user groups, including the promotion of SCORP, FORI and Outdoor Florida.
- 3** The DEP should continue to strengthen coordination amongst agencies and recreation providers in conjunction with SCORP planning and implementation. This will keep open lines of communication on statewide recreation issues and trends, and methods of addressing them.
- 4** Recreation providers should develop web and mobile-friendly applications, interactive maps and guides and other technological aids to facilitate and encourage outdoor recreation participation.
- 5** Recreation providers should collaborate with VISIT FLORIDA to cross-promote mutual goals.

Goal 2-5: Promote local parks and trails, along with neighborhood and regional connectivity.

- 1** Local governments should identify gaps in outdoor opportunities, including equal access to parks, then work to improve access and increase the number of parks, greenways, and land and water trails in urban areas and other underserved communities.
- 2** State and federal resources should be expanded to provide greater support for local land acquisition and conservation planning efforts.
- 3** Local planning and recreation departments, along with the Florida Department of Transportation, should continue to incorporate walking, biking and complete street projects into transportation plans, with a focus on connecting neighborhoods and communities to parks and open spaces.
- 4** The Florida Department of Transportation, along with local planning and recreation departments, should continue to develop initiatives and educational campaigns to promote the safety of Florida's pedestrians and cyclists.
- 5** With input from user groups, agencies and other recreation providers should establish new unpaved trails and regional trail networks with camping facilities.

Credit: Florida Disabled Outdoors Association; Crawford Entertainment; Frank Weber, Orange County Government



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES & ECOTOURISM

Priority Area Three:

Goal 3-1: Promote the economic benefits of outdoor recreation and ecotourism in Florida.

- 1** State and local governments, tourism organizations and recreation providers should promote the findings of economic impact studies that highlight the importance of outdoor recreation and tourism to Florida's economy.
- 2** State and federal conservation agencies should encourage greater collaboration and interaction with the outdoor recreation industry.
- 3** Agencies should prioritize planning, funding resources and opportunities towards Rural Areas of Opportunity to enable diversification of their economies and to promote outdoor recreation on their public lands.
- 4** Agencies and recreation providers should increase marketing coordination, and should engage destination marketing organizations, regional planning councils and the hospitality industry to stimulate job development in outdoor recreation and to foster unique Florida ecotourism and heritage tourism opportunities.
- 5** Agencies should partner with public and private entities to identify and develop funding sources for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Credit: Crawford Entertainment; Tiffany Bright, Florida Forest Service; Averette CC-BY-3.0



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP

Priority Area Four:

Goal 4-1: Encourage the conservation and protection of Florida's natural, historical and cultural resources.

- 1** State and local funding should be made available to maintain and acquire land or secure conservation easements to preserve the state's natural and cultural heritage, conduct environmental restoration and to protect the state's water resources and supply.
- 2** Public schools in Florida, in partnership with the Department of Education, should continue to integrate environmental education throughout their curricula to increase awareness of the benefits of and threats to Florida's natural systems, and to foster the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and outdoor recreation professionals.
- 3** Agencies and local governments should work to reduce the amount of nutrients and pollution that enters Florida's waters through programs that teach citizens about where pollutants come from, and what they personally can do to help.
- 4** Agencies and recreation providers should maximize the use of volunteers to energize their advocacy and stewardship programs, and should coordinate the distribution of information regarding volunteer opportunities to potential volunteer groups.

Goal 4-2: Support natural, historical and cultural resource management to ensure high quality outdoor recreation experiences for Florida's residents and visitors.

- 1** Agencies and other organizations should increase the amount of conservation land and water acreage where invasive species removal, prescribed fire management and hydrological restoration occurs.
- 2** Land managers should adopt best practices that ensure sustainable use of their recreation lands.
- 3** Public agencies and private organizations should continue restoration and rehabilitation efforts for all water bodies, while also highlighting the importance of clean water to outdoor recreation and tourism in Florida.
- 4** Agencies and planning organizations in coastal areas should develop sea level rise adaptation plans that include the protection of natural, historic and cultural resources, along with park and recreation facilities.

Credit: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC); Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve; FWC

